

Rare Plants of Louisiana



Asclepias incarnata - swamp milkweed Milkweed Family (Asclepiadaceae)

Rarity Rank: S2/G5

	1	2	3	4	5
State					
Global					
	imperiled		rare		secure

Range: FL west to NM, north to Nova Scotia and Manitoba

Recognition:

- Robust perennial milkweed from a short rootstock, to 2 m tall in our area; has milky sap which is characteristic of most milkweeds
- Leaves are numerous, opposite, linear-lanceolate to ovate-elliptic, 6 to 15 cm long to 4 cm broad with rounded to heart-shaped bases and acute to acuminate tips
- Flower color is bright rose-purple (rarely white)
- Fruit is an erect follicle (“pod”), seeds with a long tuft of hairs at one end which allows wind dispersal



Jennifer Anderson @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database

Flowering Time: June to September

Light Requirement: Full sun to partial shade

Wetland Indicator Status:

OBL – Almost always in wetlands

Habitat:

Louisiana occurrences are in freshwater swamps and marshes. May also occur in ditches.

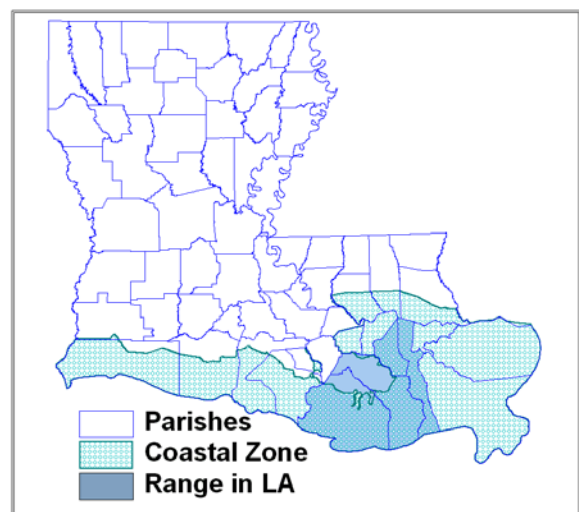
Threats:

- Subsidence of fresh marsh
- Saltwater intrusion

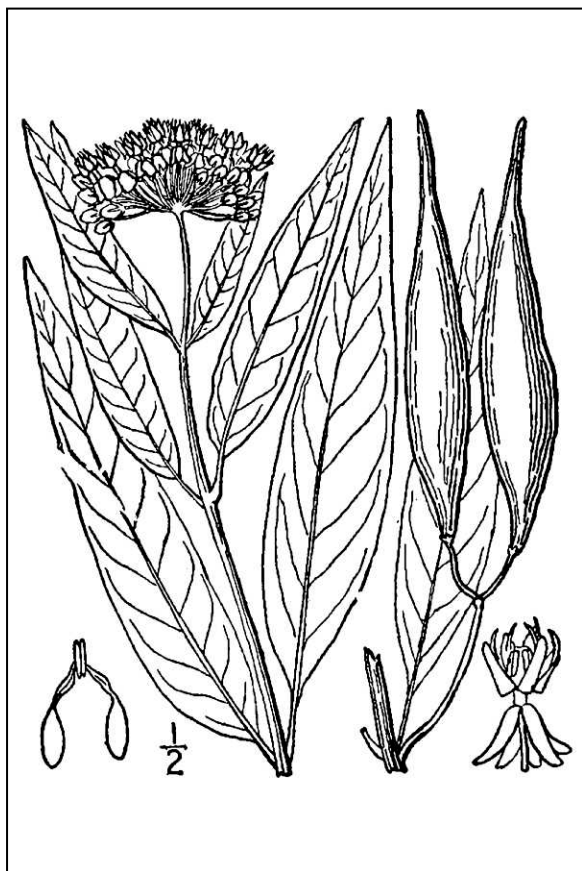
Beneficial Management Practices:

- Protection of freshwater marshes and swamps
- Conduct more field survey work in order to determine current status in Louisiana

LA River Basins: Pontchartrain, Barataria, Terrebonne



Rare Plants of Louisiana



USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / Britton, N.L., and A. Brown. 1913. *An illustrated flora of the northern United States, Canada and the British Possessions*. Vol. 3: 26.



USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / USDA NRCS. *Wetland flora: Field office illustrated guide to plant species*. USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

References:

- Duncan, W. H., and M. B. Duncan. 1987. *The Smithsonian guide to seaside plants of the Gulf and Atlantic coasts*. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington. 409 pp.
- Godfrey, R. K., and J. W. Wooten. 1981. *Aquatic and wetland plants of southeastern United States: dicotyledons*. University of Georgia Press, Athens, GA. 933 pp.
- NatureServe. 2007. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 6.2. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>.
- Tiner, R. W. 1993. *Field guide to coastal wetland plants of the southeastern United States*. The University of Massachusetts Press, Amherst. 328 pp.
- Tobe, J. D., K. C. Burks, R. W. Cantrell, M. A. Garland, M. E. Sweeley, D. W. Hall, P. Wallace, G. Anglin, G. Nelson, J. R. Cooper, D. Bickner, K. Gilbert, N. Aymond, K. Greenwood, and N. Raymond. 1998. *Florida wetland plants: an identification manual*. Tallahassee: Florida Department of Environmental Protection. 598 pp.

Funding provided by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program

For more information, please visit our Web pages at

www.wlf.louisiana.gov/experience/naturalheritage or 225-765-2811

www.BTNEP.org or 1-800-259-0869